

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*O P E R A T I O N S*  
JAN 03 2007  
PATENTS & TRADEMARKS

Applicant : Akira AHASHI et al. Confirmation No.: 6586  
Serial No : 10/571,460 (National Stage of PCT/JP2004/013113) Group Art Unit: 1755  
I.A. Filed : September 9, 2004 Examiner: Group, Karl E.  
For : FILLER FOR LADLE TAP HOLE VALVE

**SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98 and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 13, 2006 and the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed August 7, 2006, Applicants hereby submit documents cited in the Supplementary European Search Report of European Application EP 04 78 777, of which the above-referenced application is a family member:

- (1) EP 0 846 512 A1, June 10, 1998;
- (2) EP 0 950 452 A1, October 20, 1999;
- (3) JP 57-139466 A, August 28, 1982, accompanied by an English language abstract thereof (provided by Paten Abstracts of Japan).

Applicants note that the remaining documents cited in the Supplementary European Search Report were already brought to the Examiner's attention in the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 13, 2006.

Copies of the above-listed documents and the Supplementary European Search Report of European Application EP 04 78 777 (in English) are enclosed together with a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the next official communication.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not yet issued in the instant application, and thus, no fee is necessary to ensure consideration of this statement. However, if an Office Action has issued and is crossing in the mail with this statement, the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0089 any fee necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted materials.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Akira OHASHI et al.



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**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.